

WICHITA POLICE DEPARTMENT



Comprehensive Traffic Plan

WICHITA POLICE DEPARTMENT COMPREHENSIVE TRAFFIC PLAN

The purpose of this comprehensive plan is to make recommendations to the Wichita Police Department Command Staff to address concerns in the area of traffic fatalities, accidents, and other traffic related issues to insure the safety of the community.

Committee Members:

Field Services Bureau: Sergeant Quick (Chairman) Captain Nelson (West), Sergeant Wolf (East), Sergeant Phelps (South)

Sergeant Leeds (North)

Special Operations Bureau: Captain Atnip, Lt. Bohannon, and TSO Evans

City Managers Office: Latricia Harper

Traffic Engineers: Paul Gunzelman

The committee which first met on February 19th 2002 divided the plan of action into four categories.

?? Education/Awareness (internal & external)

?? Prevention

?? Equipment

?? Enforcement

The following report will provide our recommendations for implementations and suggested time frames.

EDUCATION/AWARENESS: (Internal)

With the decentralization of the traffic section and the reclassification of personnel it has become apparent that only a small number of departmental members have the expertise and skills to work traffic related functions such as traffic accidents, DUI investigations, and causations of injury and fatality accidents. Therefore the committee recognizes we must educate departmental members in the proper techniques and existing policies as they relate to traffic enforcement.

Recommended Actions:

- ?? **Increase DRE certified officers to 12. (one officer per shift per bureau)**
Currently awaiting confirmation of training dates and costs for the next scheduled training date in November 2002.
- ?? **Certification of all Field Services officers in Doppler Radar**
Currently being implemented in field services, rookies during FTO program and senior officers as scheduling allows, scheduled to have 14 certified Radar instructors. (Radar instructors completed)
- ?? **All Field Services officers attend 8 hour DUI re-certification class**
Lieutenant Kenny is the department's instructor, this class provides a refresher to all field services officers and supervisors on the Department's DUI policies and procedures requiring them to pass a written and hands on test. (Currently being implemented)
- ?? **All Field Services officers attend 16 hour accident investigation refresher**
Currently being implemented.
- ?? **All Radar Officers will attend a 5-day advanced accident investigation course**
The initial Radar Officers attended this class in the summer of 2001. The next class for new Radar Officers is currently planned for September 2002.
- ?? **Traffic bulletin boards in all Field Services squad rooms**
Bulletin boards in all squad rooms containing high accident locations, current Neighborhood Oriented Traffic Enforcement (NOTE) complaints, traffic related Problem Oriented Policing (POP) projects and other pertinent information relating to traffic safety awareness.
- ?? **Post high accident locations on Interwatch every month**
Support Services (TSO Evans) will continue to monitor accidents and post these locations on the Interwatch at the first of every month, to be implemented with staff's approval.
- ?? **24 hour DUI investigation class while in Academy**
Departmental DUI instructors recommend the traditional 24-hour DUI investigation course be re-instituted in the recruit academy upon approval of Command Staff.

EDUCATION/AWARENESS: (External)

Community education and awareness in the problem locations and the primary causations of traffic accidents is an essential aspect in the success of the Wichita Police Departments efforts to reduce the number of traffic accidents and fatalities.

Recommended Actions:

?? The use of the City of Wichita Community Relations Department to provide PSA

The Committee's vision in this area is to create Public Service Announcements and commercials educating the community of the top causations of traffic accidents and educating them on the dangers of bad driving habits. Following are three proposals supplied with different cost levels supplied by Latrisha Harper in the City Managers Office.

TRAFFIC AWARENESS PLAN

(\$0 Budget)

- ~~✍~~ Interactive Web site
- ~~✍~~ Invite comments from citizens
- ~~✍~~ City Beat spots (1 month during introduction phase and then whenever available)
- ~~✍~~ Messages on Hold
- ~~✍~~ Water Bill Inserts
- ~~✍~~ Speaker's Bureau (speaking to high school Driver's Education classes)
- ~~✍~~ Channel 7
- ~~✍~~ Safety tips
- ~~✍~~ Show on traffic awareness
- ~~✍~~ Community Educators @ Mini City Halls

Kick off with either an in depth news release or a press conference that states the problem and the proactive stance of the department.

(Minimal Budget)

- ~~✍~~ Interactive Web site
- ~~✍~~ City Beat spots (1 month during introduction phase and then whenever available)
- ~~✍~~ Messages on Hold
- ~~✍~~ Water Bill Inserts
- ~~✍~~ Speaker's Bureau (speaking to high school Driver's Education classes)
- ~~✍~~ Channel 7
- ~~✍✍~~ Radio Spots (choice of a company that has several stations for a multiple buy)
- ~~✍✍~~ Brochures/flyers

(Substantial Budget)

- ~~///~~ Interactive Web site
- ~~///~~ City Beat spots (1 month during introduction phase and then whenever available)
- ~~///~~ Messages on Hold
- ~~///~~ Water Bill Inserts
- ~~///~~ Speaker's Bureau (speaking to high school Driver's Education classes)
- ~~///~~ Channel 7
- ~~///~~ Radio Spots (choice a company that has several stations for a multiple buy)
- ~~///~~ Brochures/flyers
- ~~///~~ Television spots on network TV (this is very subjective to time of year, time of day, etc., and very expensive)
- ~~///~~ Billboards
- ~~///~~ Bumper stickers/or additional message methods
- ~~///~~ Electronic bill boards on highways

?? Public Traffic Safety Fairs

Special Operations personnel and Beat Coordinators teaming with local merchants and neighborhoods to conduct traffic education fairs for the community, DW EYES, reporting of accidents, and educational pamphlets targeting specific concerns. Currently not assigned awaiting staff approval

?? DAB Board and Neighborhood Association Presentations.

Special Operations Bureau personnel design educational presentations to present during these meetings. They will update the community on current traffic related problems and upcoming enforcement events.

?? High School Drivers Education Classes.

School Resource Officer's assigned to area high schools will team with drivers education instructors to develop a safe driving curriculum pertaining to young adults. This curriculum will include underage drinking, DUI accidents, seat belt awareness and reckless driving.

?? Street Racing.

School Resource Officers will team with Special Operations Personnel to develop a curriculum for all SRO's to educate their students on the alternatives, hazards and consequences of this popular phenomenon.

?? Community Newsletters.

Beat Coordinators will team with the Administrative Traffic Lieutenant and Special Operations Bureau personnel for statistical and educational information related to traffic concerns. The Beat Coordinators will provide this information to community groups for publication in Newsletters.

?? Educational Flyers to be issued with citations.

The use of NOTE flyers, seatbelt warning, Special Traffic Enforcement Program (STEP) grant information and other educational flyers provided by Kansas Department of Transportation. Currently being done during all STEP campaigns

?? Radar Trailers.

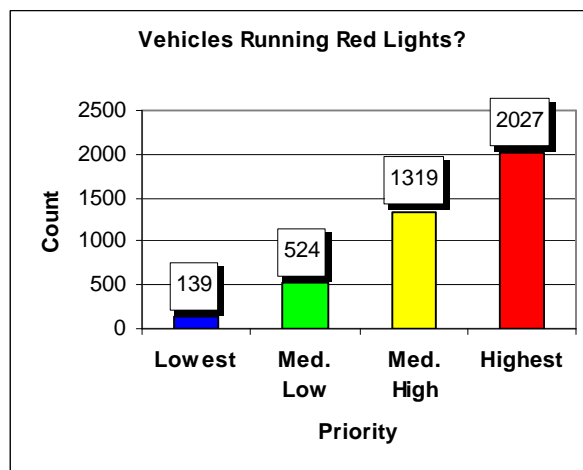
We have purchased four additional trailers. The Radar speed trailers that were purchased have an on board computer software system that will allow the tracking of vehicles speeds, times and dates. This information will allow officers to set-up enforcement activity times for maximum efficiency and provide the neighborhood citizens informed feedback on their concerns.

?? Citizen Survey.

Designed to obtain citizens input regarding traffic safety concerns throughout the community. Dissemination of survey was done through Department's web page, Beat Coordinators, police sub-stations and Mini-City Halls. The survey was conducted during May 13th, 2002 through May 24th, 2002 resulting in over 5000 replies. In the following pages you will find the statistical breakdown of the survey in graph and percentage form.

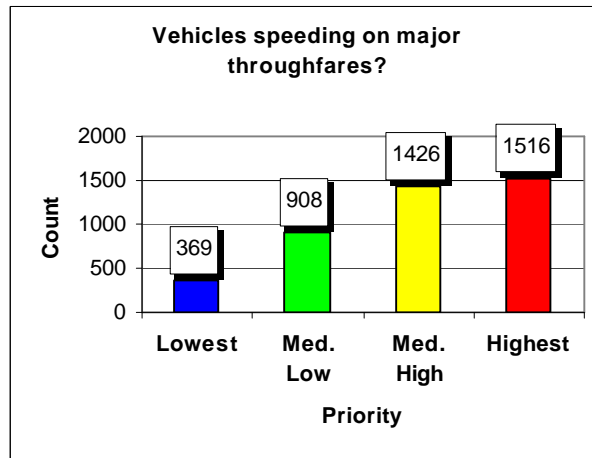
(1) Vehicles running red lights.

3%	14%	33%	50%
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
Lowest Priority			Highest Priority



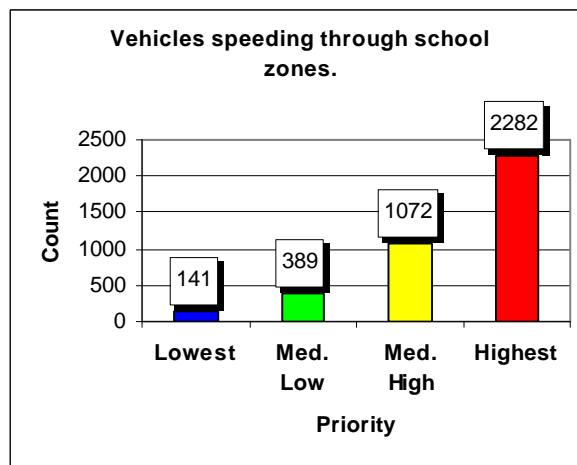
(2) Vehicles speeding on major thoroughfares.

9%	21%	34%	36%
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
Lowest Priority			Highest Priority



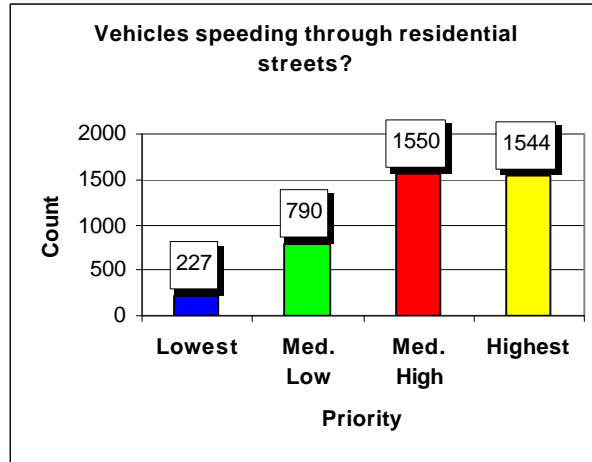
(3) Vehicles speeding through school zones.

4%	10%	27%	59%
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
Lowest Priority			Highest Priority



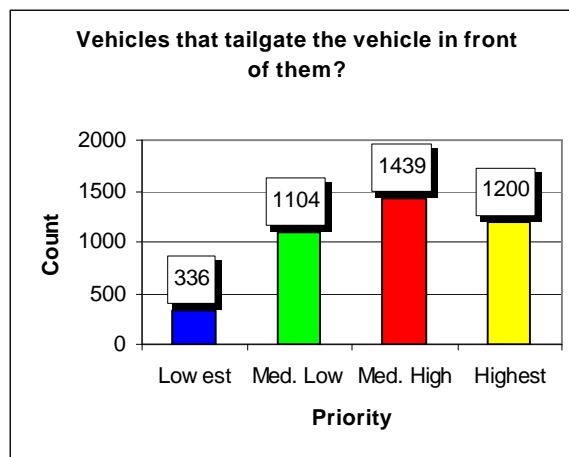
(4) Vehicles speeding on residential streets.

5%	19%	38%	38%
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
Lowest Priority			Highest Priority



(5) Vehicles that tailgate the vehicle in front of them.

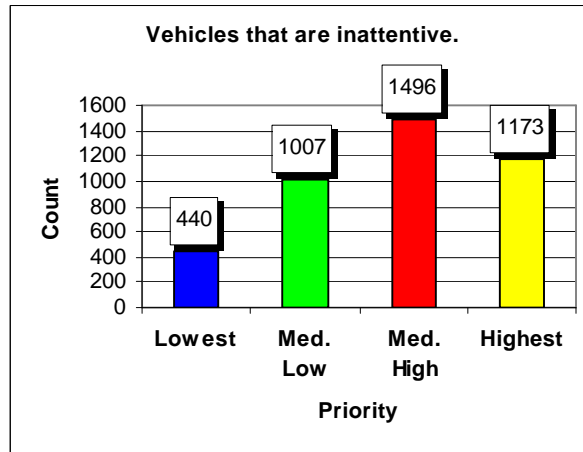
9%	27%	35%	29%
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
Lowest Priority			Highest Priority



(6) Drivers that are inattentive.

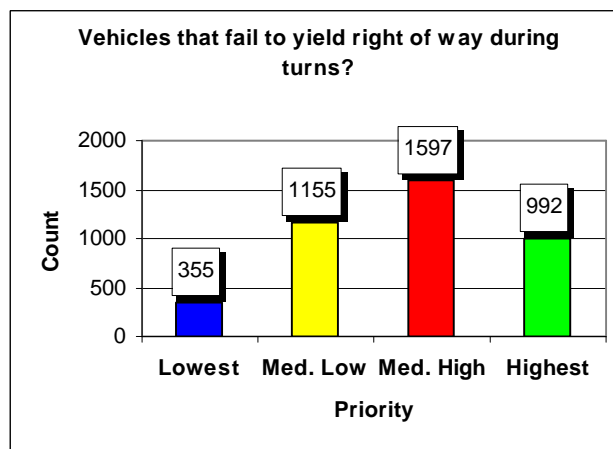
(cell phone use, eating, reading, etc.)

11%	25%	36%	28%
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
Lowest Priority			Highest Priority



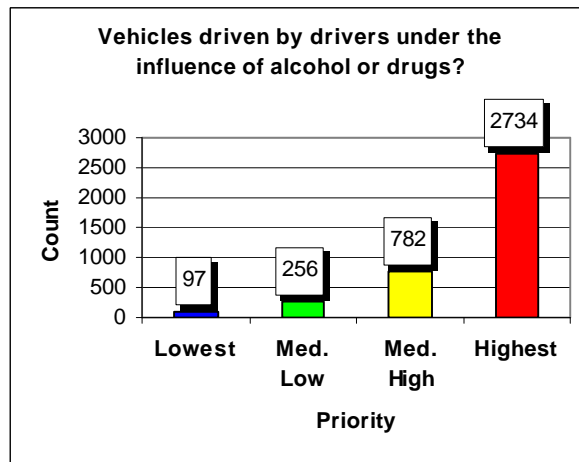
(7) Vehicles failing to yield right of way during turns.

9%	28%	39%	24%
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
Lowest Priority			Highest Priority



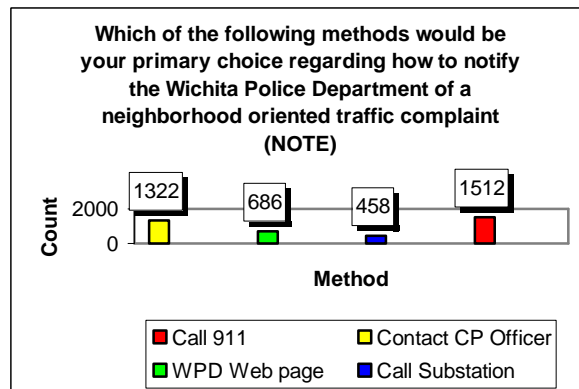
(8) Drivers who operate a vehicle under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

3%	7%	20%	70%
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
Lowest Priority			Highest Priority



(9) Which of the following methods would be your primary choice regarding how to notify the Wichita Police Department of a neighborhood oriented traffic complaint (N.O.T.E.) ? (circle your response)

- | | |
|--|-----|
| (1) Call 911 | 33% |
| (2) Contact your Community Police Officer (Beat Coordinator) | 17% |
| (3) Submit information via WPD web page (www.wichitapolice.com) | 12% |
| (4) Call your neighborhood substation: Patrol West, Patrol South, Patrol East, or Patrol North | 38% |

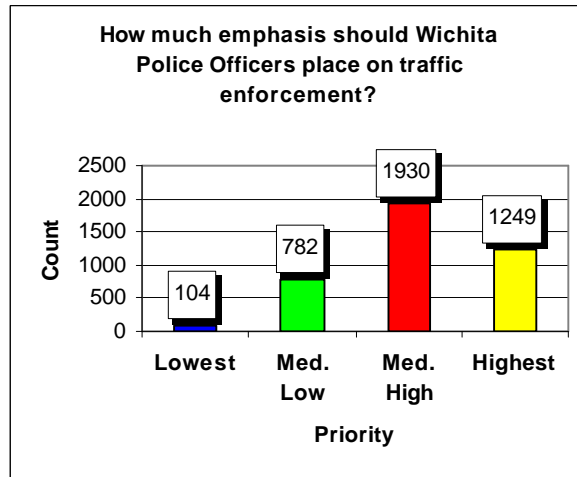


(10) How much emphasis should Wichita Police Officers place on traffic enforcement? (circle your response)

3% 19% 47% 31%

(1) (2) (3) (4)

Lowest Priority Highest Priority

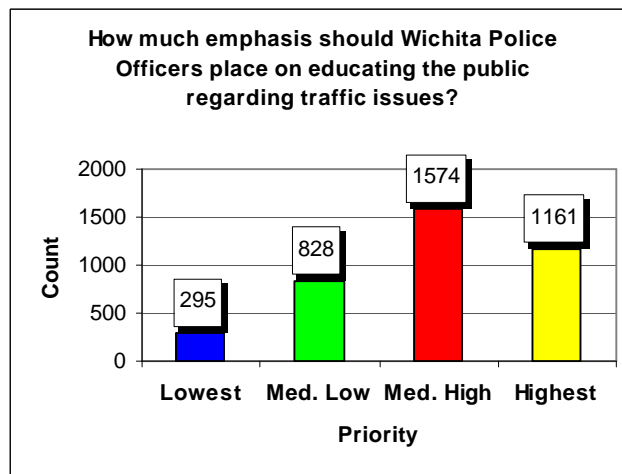


(11) How much emphasis should Wichita Police Officers place on educating the public regarding traffic issues? (circle your response)

8% 21% 41% 30%

(1) (2) (3) (4)

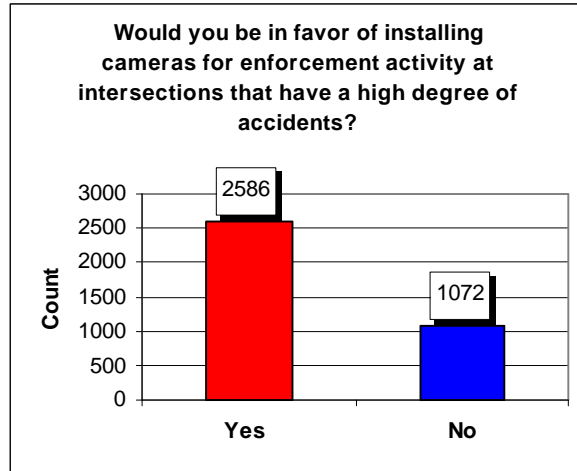
Lowest Priority Highest Priority



(12) Would you be in favor of installing cameras for enforcement activity at intersections that have a high degree of accidents? (circle your response)

Yes 71%

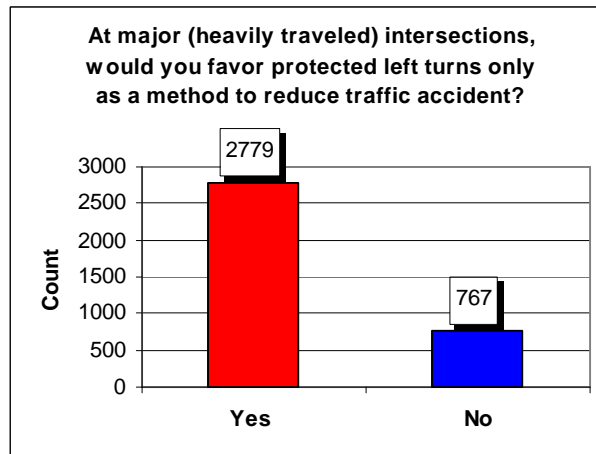
No 29%



(13) At major (heavily traveled) intersections, would you favor protected left turn only arrows as a method to reduce traffic accidents?

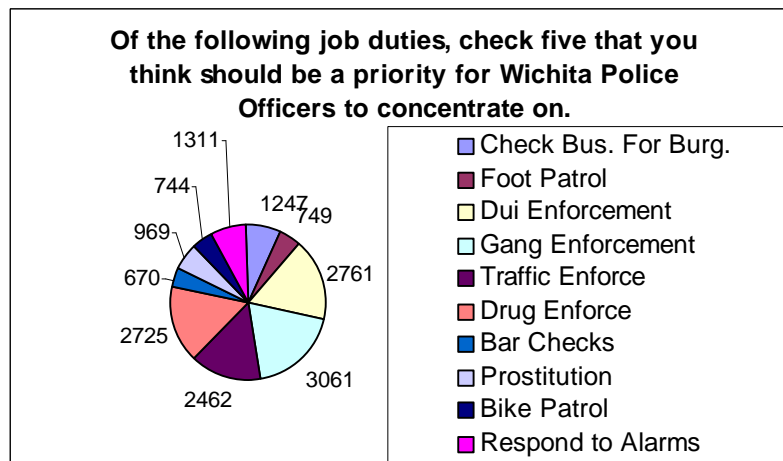
Yes 78%

No 22%



(14) Of the following job duties, check five that you think should be a priority for Wichita Police Officers to concentrate on. (check only 5)

<u>7%</u> Check businesses for burglaries	<u>16%</u> Drug enforcement
<u>5%</u> Foot Patrol	<u>3%</u> Bar checks
<u>17%</u> DUI enforcement	<u>6%</u> Prostitution
<u>18%</u> Gang enforcement	<u>5%</u> Bike Patrol
<u>15%</u> Traffic enforcement	<u>8%</u> Respond to alarms



PREVENTION:

The committee recognizes that prevention is a very difficult task. Therefore by teaming with other city departments, citizens, and local media with an emphasis on the causations of traffic related issues we will attempt to make the streets of Wichita a safe and friendly place to travel.

Recommended Actions:

?? Public Information Officer monthly news release.

Media releases of Bureau's monthly traffic work projects, top five causes of accidents for the month. Currently awaiting staff approval.

?? City Traffic Engineers.

Review high accident locations with department members (AFU, Traffic Sergeants) for consideration of redesign, signage and traffic lights.

?? Electronic messaging boards.

Currently the Public Works Department office has four electronic message boards. These can be utilized during enforcement exercises, placed at high accident locations, and general motorist education.

?? Special Operations Bureau

Work with Traffic Engineers, Planning Commission and Traffic Sergeants to implement programs and review thoroughfare designs targeting new development and growth concerning traffic issues.

Access Management Policy:

In an attempt to reduce the number of conflicts along Wichita streets, an access management policy has been drafted to address the number of driveways accessing the arterial street system. The highlights of the policy are to construct medians within 300 feet of intersections, increase driveway spacing from the intersection from 200 feet to 250 feet (right in/right out) and from 250 feet to 400 feet for full turning movements, encourage joint/cross lot access points to adjacent properties (with like use), and to obtain traffic impact studies when required.

In administering the access control guidelines, it is the Traffic Engineers intent to provide clear, concise, and easily understood requirements for the land developers to follow. This will provide more consistent driveway spacing, thus, increasing drivers expectancy. It is our hope that fewer driveways will allow for a safer, more efficient street system.

Traffic Calming on Residential Streets:

Traffic Engineering has installed a few traffic-calming devices on residential streets as a pilot project and are currently gathering information as to their performance. Initial findings show that the traffic calming measures have reduced the speed by 8 mph, however, the volume of vehicles has been unchanged. Currently, we are considering other traffic calming devices to be implemented as well as included in future subdivision designs to reduce the speed through neighborhoods. Some examples of these are Speed Bumps, Traffic Circles, and Chokers. (where the curbs are brought into narrow the streets)

High Accident Locations:

Each year the Traffic Engineering section, along with the Wichita Police Department, review high accident locations (by number of accidents and by accident rate) to determine if geometric/signal timing changes can be made to reduce the number of accidents at these locations. Residential intersections with 3 or more accidents in a year are also reviewed to see if sight obstructions need to be cleared or if stop signs are warranted.

?? Administrative Traffic Lieutenant

Will continue to gather and disseminate traffic statistics, High Accident Location information and results of the Detectives' investigations concerning fatalities and major accidents. Currently awaiting Planning and Research to get TRW system online.

?? Utilization of Grant monies for Traffic enforcement and education

An example of this is the STEP grant and Technology grant. Sgt. Quick has recommended the eCIVIS grant locator software. This software package can be purchased by individual City of Wichita Departments, through the DATA Center. One Departmental member would be trained to be the contact person. This person can enter the search parameters into the program and the software will search the Internet looking for qualifying grants.

EQUIPMENT:

To supplement the officers training and provide them the resources needed to assist them in the performance of their duties.

Recommended Actions:

?? Radars in all marked units

The purchase of 55 new Radar units from the technology grant. (Completed)

?? Radar trailers assigned to each sub-station

The purchase of 4 Radar trailers from the technology grant. (Ordered awaiting shipment)

?? Roll-a-tapes in all patrol cars

Currently all radar cars have roll-a-tapes, awaiting staff approval to purchase additional units for entire fleet.

?? Electronic messaging boards

Research availability of grant monies for department to purchase one for each bureau, currently utilizing boards from Public Works when available.

?? DUI Checkpoint Signs

The Department has only one set of reflective DUI Checkpoint signs we would request the purchase of 3 additional sets of signs, one set for each Bureau.

?? Full Size 35 MM Cameras

The eight Radar cars to be outfitted with a full sized 35 mm Camera and hard carrying case equipped with a self-adjusting focus. This equipment would assist the officers in the accurate documentation of major accident scenes for further follow-up and prosecution.

?? Networked Computers for Hit & Run, and DUI Officers

These positions, work closely with Field Services. Currently they do not have networked terminals in their offices equipped with Outlook, MS Office Standard programs. It is difficult and time consuming to research information regarding DUI cases and respond to the public and attorneys requests. They are required to draft letters to the Driver's License Bureau to obtain Certified Driving Records, and abstracts regarding convictions from other counties/ states. Currently they must walk to another office and use a detective's computer when available. Currently they are unable to communicate with field supervision or the bureau commanders regarding DUI paperwork, hit and run paperwork or problems needing a timely response.

ENFORCEMENT:

The committee recognizes that Education and Prevention are very important factors in the reduction of aggressive driving habits, which are contributing factors to injury and fatality accidents. However, there does come a time when citizens need to be held accountable for their poor driving skills.

?? DUI case management review.

The administrative DUI officer will review all cases for completeness and needed follow-up. The Accident Follow-up Unit is in the process of adding an Administrative DUI Officers position.

- ?? Review all DUI paper work on a daily basis
- ?? Log DUI cases in a database and binder
- ?? File intoxilyzer cards
- ?? Dub video tape for discovery orders
- ?? Copy documents for discovery orders (Approximately 100 cases/ months)
- ?? Prepare blood/ urine analysis documents for the Forensic Science Center (every Wednesday)
- ?? Collects and sends Implied Consent Advisory Form (DC-27, DC-28) driver's licenses, and intoxilyzer cards to the Kansas Department of Revenue, Driver Control (daily)
- ?? Provides security for the City Council Meeting every Tuesday.
- ?? Re-certify the intoxilyzer machines every Wednesday and forward re-certification documents to the Kansas Department of Health and Environment on a monthly basis
- ?? Send suspended drivers license to the Driver's Control Bureau
- ?? When blood/ urine results are obtained contact arresting officer to complete charging documents
- ?? Schedule annual radar re-certification
- ?? Schedule officers for intoxilyzer re-certification
- ?? Maintain supply of blood kits and DUI paper work for the intoxilyzer vans
- ?? Maintain the videotapes from intoxilyzer vans
- ?? Submit monthly report on DUI statistics

?? **Citation enforcement expectations.**

Recommendation for staff to incorporate as part of 2003 goals, Field Services Personnel will aggressively enforce all traffic violations in an effort to reduce traffic related injury accidents and their causations.

?? **DUI enforcement expectations.**

Recommendation for staff to incorporate as part of 2003 goals, Field Services Personnel will aggressively enforce all DUI related violations in an effort to reduce DUI related injury accidents and their causations.

?? **Monthly Bureau work projects.**

DUI checkpoints, Lidar operations, Seatbelt check lanes, high accident location projects, and weekly joint bureau traffic projects. These would be tied into the bureau's yearly goals and monitored by the Bureau Commanders.

?? **Maintain NOTE Program.**

Centralized NOTE database: Planning and Research is working on the new TRW computer software system and utilizing an MSAccess database that would look similar to the index crimes within individual neighborhoods found on the departments web site at <http://10.20.1.4:8000/Patrol>.

Permission could be granted within the database that would allow only selected individuals to input data, i.e., clerks at substations, traffic supervisors, etc. Others would be allowed to view only i.e. Council members, DAB board coordinators, Command Staff, Watch Commanders etc. Report forms would be available to be printed and be completed by hand and later entered into the system or the document could be filled out on line by those accessing the departments web site.

?? DUI Enforcement Unit

This proposal would call for each Patrol Bureau to create a two officer DUI enforcement unit. The officer's duties would be the same as the current Radar Officer position with increased emphasis placed on the detection and suppression of persons who operate a motor vehicle under the influence of alcohol, drugs or both.

The officer's hours of work would be 1800 to 0400 hrs. with SMT's off. The officer would report to and be supervised by the SCAT Sergeant in that bureau working the same days they do. This would be similar to the set-up as the SRO Sergeant and First Watch Radar Officers, or to the patrol supervision on second or third shift.

The staffing can be derived from one of three options:

#1, Each bureau select 2 officers from their current staffing levels and place them in these positions.

#2, Each Bureau would pull one Radar Officer from second watch and one from third watch and place them in these positions.

#3, Each Bureau would reassign the two Radar officers on third shift to the DUI enforcement unit. These positions are statistically the lowest producing positions of the three watches Radar Officer positions.

Jerry D. Quick #1407
Sergeant
Patrol West SRO/Traffic
1200 hrs. 7-15-02

